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MEMORANDUM OF CONDITIONS ON THE JULIAN-CUYAMACA PINE BEETLE CONTROL PROJECT AREA

By

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An inspection of the Julian-Cuyamaca pine beetle control project area was made by State Ranger Floyd Lewis and the writer on September 27. It revealed that there had been a marked decline in pine beetle infestation following the control work of the last two years. While a considerable number of trees carrying overwintering broods of Ips faded in the spring of this year, the broods emerging from these trees evidently did not find slash or other suitable breeding material and were unable to continue their attacks. There has been a most gratifying reduction of loss from Ips beetles throughout the Julian--Pine-Hills area.

In our inspection we found some western pine beetles still active in killing groups of trees in the Pine Hills area and a very few around Julian. These beetles take advantage of the trees previously top-killed by Ips in which to increase their numbers.

For the coming winter period, I feel that it would be highly desirable to clean up the few broods of western pine beetle so that they will not get a fresh start and again become epidemic. As for Ips beetle infestations, the best way to deal with these would be to clean up all slash from logging, wood cuttings, or thinnings between April 1 and June 30, and then fell and burn any newly infested trees which appear in the late spring and early summer. Such trees will be infested by the first Ips generation of 1950. Such a clean-up would not be expensive and should deal the knock-out blow to this recent Ips epidemic.

At this time it is too early to estimate just how large a winter and spring control program will be needed. The indications are that it will not be large and that about one-quarter as much work as was done in 1947 should be sufficient to put these pine beetles under control.

Control of pine beetles, like the control of orchard or garden pests, requires continual application of control effort, for there is no way to eradicate such native pests once and for all. If a small maintenance

program is continued there should be no need for large expenditures in any one year. The success of such maintenance control has been demonstrated in the Arrowhead Lake area, where it has been in operation for ten years. Now when pine beetle losses are low is the time to insure against new outbreaks.

The Forest Insect Laboratory of the U. S. Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine is ready and willing to assist the community and the State Division of Forestry in the technical aspects of control recommendations. Federal funds are also available under the Forest Pest Control Act to assist State and local communities in meeting forest insect problems whenever local funds and efforts are insufficient for the purpose and local agencies desire such federal aid.